

CIA & KGB to be pals?

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WASHINGTON — The Soviet Union has floated hints that its KGB is willing to cooperate with the U.S. in fighting international terrorism, CIA Director William Webster disclosed yesterday.

Webster described the hints after noting that KGB chief Vladimir Kryuchkov had held an unprecedented meeting in Moscow with U.S. Ambassador Jack Matlock.

"There's some suggestion that we might do something together about terrorism," Webster said. "It isn't what I have in mind, because I'm not lobbying for it, but I think this is being increasingly suggested and hinted at, and we will at some point be asked to make a recommendation on it."

Webster said he foresaw problems in trying to cooperate with the Russians.

"We already have lines of shared intelligence (with oth-

But he suggested cooperation might take place in cases such as the Pan Am 103 bombing where there are "inner countries) that could not be opened up, for obvious reasons, to the Soviets," he said. "And in trying to cope with terrorism, you have the fundamental problem that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter, so you go through endless debates over definition."

nocent lives lost and no justification on political ground."

Webster said that kind of "investigation ought to be supported by every civilized country, and in those areas

there may be a basis for discussion."

If the U.S. agrees to accept KGB aid, it would represent a dramatic turnaround on both sides. Eight years ago, when President Ronald Reagan took office, Secretary of State Alexander Haig argued that the KGB controlled virtually all of the world's terrorists, and the CIA found Moscow behind several of the leading terror groups in West Europe.

Since then, terrorism in Western Europe has fallen off, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has urged the Palestine Liberation Organization to abandon terror as a form of struggle against Israel.

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 The New York Times _____
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